

16 Mitchell: 350 Taps, 1500 Held

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PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Attorney General Mitchell reported today there had been about 350 wiretaps run by the FBI since the Nixon Administration had taken office, resulting in more than 1500 arrests.

In that time, Mitchell said 170 persons, most of them identified as leaders of organized crime, had been convicted as a result of electronic surveillance.

Cataloguing a Justice Dept. scorecard against the top leadership of organized crime, Mitchell said four of the five bosses in New York City had been indicted or convicted.

Mitchell said federal wiretap operation had been so effective that many organizers of illegal drug traffic and bookmaking operations had simply given up because they could not operate without telephones.

Out of Business

"You can't work without a telephone," Mitchell quoted a bookmaker in Miami as telling FBI agents after his arrest. "Federal wiretaps are going to put us all out of business."

In remarks prepared for the annual convention of the Associated Press Managing-Editors Assn., Mitchell said one of the major offshoots of the Administration's campaign against organized crime had been the indictment or conviction of more than 170 state and local officeholders or former officials.

Mitchell said the officials had represented 21 cities, 12 counties and five states and ranged in importance from judges to state elective officials, mayors, councilmen and policemen.